

REMARKS

Claims 1-6, 9-15 and 17-27 are pending in this application.

Claims 17-24, 26 and 27 are allowed.

Claims 1-6, 9-15 and 25 are rejected.

Claims 6, 10 and 15 have been amended.

International Filing Date

Applicant brings to the Examiner's attention:

This application is based on a PCT application, filed on December 10, 1996, International Application No. PCT/IB96/01410, Publication number WO98/26412. This is the effective US filing date.

Specification amendments

The Examiner objects to several informalities within the specification. As suggested, the Applicants have corrected the misspelling of "diskussion" on page 11 at line 23. Additionally, the Applicants have corrected the misspelling of "diskloses" on page 11 at line 17. No new matter has been added

35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph

Claims 6, 10 and 15 have been amended as the Examiner has requested. No new matter has been added.

35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claims 1-6, 9, 11-14 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable El Houar et al. in view of Van et al. US '561.

Claims 1-6, 9, 12, 15 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as being unpatentable over El Houar et al., Chimia vol. 50, pp341 (7/8-1996) , in view of Hoysoya et al. US '873.

Claims 1-6, 9-15 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over El Houar et al., Chimia vol. 50, pp341 (7/8-1996), in view of either Hoysoya et al. US '873 or Van et al. US '561 combined with Caulfield et al., "The Applications of Holography", pp 30-33 (1970).

Applicant brings to the Examiner's attention the full citation for the article cited in all of the above 103(a) rejections:

"Synthesis of New Photo-and Thermochromic Systems Based on Cyclic Double Bond Shifts in Heptalenes "

Sarah El Houar and Hans-Jurgen Hansen

Chimia Vol. 50, (1996), Nr. 7/8 July August

The instant application is based on an international filing date of December 10, 1996. The PCT publication number is WO98/26412. This publication designated the US and was published in English. Note that the above El Houar et al. article does not predate the international filing date by more than one year. Therefore, the El Houar reference is not prior art under 102(b).

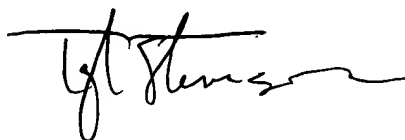
The El Houar reference qualifies as a prior art reference only under 102(a). However, the work carried out in the said article is describing the work of the instant inventor. The Applicant is enclosing a Declaration under Rule 132 that states the article is describing his own work. That he is the sole inventor of the above mentioned article. Sarah El Houar was merely working under his direction. Since all of the above 103(a) rejections are based on combining the said article describing the inventor's own work and the article did not publish more than one year before the effective US filing date of the instant invention, the Applicant submits that the 103(a) rejections are overcome.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-6,9-15 and 25 is respectfully solicited in light of the remarks and amendments *supra*.

Since there are no other grounds of objection or rejection, passage of this application to issue with claims 1-6, 9-15, and 17-27 is earnestly solicited.

Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. In the event that minor amendments will further prosecution, Applicants request that the examiner contact the undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tyler Stevenson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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Enclosure: Declaration under 132